

tion, and only altered about twelve days before their rising when some members had gone off, to wit, that he (the President) should be elected for seven years and incapable for ever after. (To William Short, written from Paris, 1788. F. V., 49.)

THE PRESIDENCY.—The first wish of my heart was that you should have been proposed for the administration of the government. On your declining it, I wish anybody other than myself: and there is nothing I so anxiously hope, as that my name may come out either second or third. These would be indifferent to me; as the last would leave me at home the whole year, and the other two-thirds of it. (To James Madison, 1793. F. VII., 91.)

THE PRESIDENCY.—You have seen my name lately tacked so much to eulogy and, abuse that I dare say you hardly thought it meant your old acquaintance of '76. In truth, I did not know myself under the pens either of my friends- or foes. It is unfortunate for our peace that unmerited abuse wounds while unmerited praise has not the power to heal. These are hard wages for the services of all the activity and healthy years of one's life. I had retired after five and twenty years of constant occupation in public affairs and total abandonment of my own. I retired much poorer than when I entered the public service, and desired nothing but rest and oblivion. My name, however, was again brought forward without consent or expectation on my part (on my salvation I declare it). \* \* \* On principles of public respect I should not have refused; but I protest before my God that I shall from the bottom of my heart rejoice at escaping. \* \* \* I have no ambition to govern men; no passion which would lead me to delight to ride in a storm. *Flumina amo sylvasque inglorius*. (To Edward Rutledge, 1796. F. VII., 93-)

PRESIDENCY.—My opinion originally was that the President of the United States should have been elected for seven years, and forever ineligible afterwards. I have since become sensible that seven years is too long to be irremovable, and that there should be a peaceable way of withdrawing a man in midway who is doing wrong. The service for eight years with a power